



## Serving

Bay Ho

Bay Park

Birdland

De Anza

Clairemont

Kearny Mesa

Linda Vista

Mission Valley

Mission Bay Park

Mission Village

Morena

Serra Mesa

## Budget reform/tax package headed to ballot

### *Council approves compromise measures urged by Frye*

Led by Councilmembers Donna Frye and Todd Gloria, the San Diego City Council voted August 4 to put a Reform Before Revenue measure on the November ballot to begin fundamentally addressing the City's deepening financial crisis.

Frye took center stage in what became a hectic week and a half of unfolding drama, beginning July 26, when she refused to join five Council colleagues who needed six votes for a measure seeking a ½-cent sales tax increase. Frye argued, as she has for years, that any call for additional taxes must be combined with pension reforms and other cost-saving measures to begin reducing the City's ongoing structural deficit.

Throughout the ensuing week, Frye heard from the public, staff from the Mayor's Office, Council colleagues, business groups and union leaders. Based on that input, Frye and Gloria drafted a series of proposals -- detailed in public memos posted online and revised in three special Council meetings -- intended to help bridge the longstanding ideological stalemate between advocates arguing for budget cuts only versus those insisting additional tax revenues were needed to restore City services.

Frye likened it to two children at the water's edge, each demanding the other jump first. "I'm saying let's agree to stop debating who should go first and jump together," she told reporters. "That's the only way this will ever get started."

The end result was a package of 10 pension and budgetary reforms that must be achieved and certified by the independent City Auditor before a proposed temporary ½-cent sales tax increase could be collected. In a 6-2 super-majority vote August 4, the Council approved putting the Reform Before Revenue package on the November ballot for voters to decide.

Mayor Sanders, who initially had opposed any tax increase, joined Frye and other Council members in news conferences July 30 and August 5 to voice support for combining both strategies to help balance the City budget and maintain essential services.

"These provisions represent the most significant opportunity for fundamental reform of employee pension, retiree healthcare and managed competition since I took office in 2005," Sanders wrote in a July 30 memo.

At the August 5 news conference at a fire station in Point Loma, Frye praised the diversity of interests teaming up to enact the reforms instead of taking traditional adversarial stands.

"The coalition we have assembled to get this passed is unprecedented -- business and labor, Democrats and Republicans," she said. "We believe that by working together through civil, intelligent dialogue, we can get this done. The people of San Diego will come to realize that we *can* make significant, meaningful and necessary changes in an open and honest way."

For details on the Reform Before Revenue package, including links to the series of memos, visit Frye's Web site at <http://www.sandiego.gov/citycouncil/cd6/memorandums/>.



**Councilmember Frye, Mayor Sanders and others hailed the reform package at an August 5 press conference.**

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## *Public to get better analysis of City ballot measure costs*

### **Frye pushes for accuracy & accountability reforms adopted by Council**

Before voting on any City ballot measure, taxpayers will now have an accurate analysis of what that proposal would cost, thanks to Councilmember Frye.

Frye persuaded the City Council this month to pass a change to the Municipal Code that improves the way in which the Fiscal Impact Analyses of ballot initiatives are approved before being placed on the ballot. The purpose of such an analysis is to explain all costs associated with implementing a ballot measure, as well as the source of its funding.

Prior to Councilmember Frye's change, the preparation of Fiscal Impact Analyses for ballot measures was the sole authority of the Mayor.

Frye's idea to make this process more transparent and accurate stemmed from the way in which the Fiscal Impact Analysis of June's Strong Mayor ballot measure was crafted. Because the version that the mayor's staff submitted for inclusion on the ballot was inaccurate and misleading, Frye had no other remedy available to her than litigation. She filed a Petition in Superior Court challenging the Fiscal Impact Analysis.

Ultimately, a settlement was reached and new language was agreed upon that met legal requirements.

The new ordinance, approved by the City Council July 26, requires analyses by the City's Independent Budget Analyst and Independent City Auditor to ensure that any ballot measure's full costs are disclosed and that it is true, accurate and not misleading. Such protections are essential to preserve open and honest government and maintain public trust, Frye said.

For more background on Frye's challenge of the Fiscal Impact Analysis for the Strong Mayor proposal, download the April 2010 issue of *Frye Lights* at <http://www.sandiego.gov/citycouncil/cd6/fryelights/past.shtml>.

## **Madison High getting multimillion-dollar makeover**

### *Upgrades to athletic field, track & other facilities funded by Prop S bonds*

The football stadium and track at Clairemont's Madison High School is undergoing a major upgrade. The \$6 million project will bring improvements to the field, track and various amenities benefitting both athletes and spectators.

Funded with Proposition S bonds approved by San Diego voters in 2008, the project will include:

- Adding wheelchair-accessible bleachers, increasing the total home-stand seating to 1,600 and visitor seating to 800.
- Constructing a 2,400-square-foot common building with concession stands and restrooms.
- Installing a synthetic-turf field with the school logo and a nine-lane, all-weather track.
- Adding an announcers' booth with an elevator.
- Adding wheelchair-accessible ticket booths and visitor parking.
- Updating the public-address system, including providing radio-assisted listening devices for hearing-impaired spectators.
- Upgrading the field lighting.
- Constructing an athletic-equipment storage building.

The project is scheduled to be completed in June 2011. Construction, demolition, truck hauling and crane work is expected to generate noise and traffic disruptions 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Football games, track & field meets and other events will be relocated to an alternate site not yet specified. In a prepared statement, district officials apologized for the inconvenience but said the improvements "will benefit the students and the community for years to come."

That's not the extent of improvements coming at the school. Also scheduled are a \$3.3 million automotive-repair center and a \$2.6 million multimedia-production facility. The automotive center is scheduled to be completed this year, while the media facility is set to be finished in 2011.

Additional information can be obtained from project managers Bob Higdon at (858) 573-5737, [bhigdon@sandi.net](mailto:bhigdon@sandi.net), or Loren Chico at (858) 573-5757, [lochico@sandi.net](mailto:lochico@sandi.net).



**Madison High's football field and track are getting major renovations with \$6 million in voter-approved funding.**





## Mid-Coast trolley route through Clairemont approved

Known for its sweeping views of Mission Bay and its central location, the community of Clairemont is expected to have a new connection to the region by way of the San Diego Trolley by 2015.

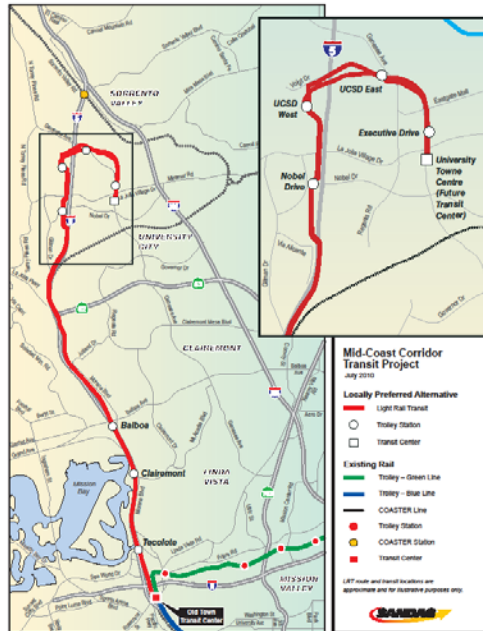
On July 23, the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) Board voted unanimously to move forward with the preferred route for what is known as the Mid-Coast Corridor Transit Project. Identified as the highest-priority transit project in the region, the Mid-Coast light-rail project will extend the San Diego Trolley from the Old Town Transit Station north through Clairemont to University City.

The 11-mile extension will improve public transit services and connect corridor residents with other trolley lines serving Old Town, Mission Valley, Downtown, East County, South County communities and the international border, enhancing access to regional employment, educational, medical, retail and other activity centers.

With three trolley stations proposed along Clairemont's Morena Boulevard -- at Tecolote Road, Clairemont Drive and Balboa Avenue -- many area residents and businesses are excited about the prospects for people to live, shop and work near the stations. Future land-use planning would aim to incorporate more mixed-use, transit-oriented development in Clairemont while preserving the community's established single-family neighborhoods.

Planning with the trolley in mind also could improve connectivity and access to the corridor for pedestrians, bicyclists, autos and bus riders, as well as addressing issues such as parking, streetscape and building design.

The City Planning & Community Investment Department is coordinating with SANDAG on a grant request under the Federal Transit Administration's New Starts program to secure funding for the station-area planning component of the Mid-Coast Corridor Transit Project. In the meantime, members of the Clairemont Community Planning Group have already begun to discuss visions for encouraging smart growth along the transit corridor, including possible bus feeder services connecting residents and employment centers to future trolley stations along the major arteries.



Additionally, in 2005 the City Council adopted the Balboa Avenue Revitalization Action Program (<http://www.sandiego.gov/planning/community/profiles/clairemontmesa/more.shtml>), which established a vision for a more pedestrian and bicycle-friendly corridor to serve as a "main street" for the community, connecting the future Balboa Ave Trolley Station to the more urbanized community core and eastern areas of Clairemont.

This post-World War II community, characterized by diverse topography, neighborhoods and businesses, is entering a new era of integrating transportation and land-use planning as the Mid-Coast Trolley Extension moves closer to becoming a reality.

-- Contributed by Brian Schoenfisch  
City Planning and Community Investment



## River guardians

U. S. Bureau of Reclamation officials Bill Steele, back row right, and Jack Simes, front row left, presented certificates and plaques to leaders and volunteers of the San Diego River Coalition and San Diego River Park Foundation after a July 10 cleanup event near the Mission Valley Preserve.

Hundreds of volunteers have plucked more than 1 million pounds of trash from the river's banks and estuary over the past eight years.

At left, the honorees gathered in front of a mural painted in 2008 on the brick wall of a Pacific Highway self-storage yard as part of a beautification project sponsored by the foundation.



## *D6 resident honored for water-wise landscaping*

Susan Mittman hates to waste water.

Realizing that landscaping typically accounts for the bulk of home water use, the Clairemont woman created a garden with plants, bushes and trees that are especially hardy, hardly thirsty and yet very attractive.

For her efforts, Mittman earned an Honorable Mention in the annual California Friendly Landscape Contest staged by San Diego's Water Conservation Program within the Public Utilities Department.

"It's a great feeling knowing we're saving so much water," Mittman said. "But it's not really that difficult – anyone can do it."

Mittman, and her husband Bryan Berthot, decided that a major home remodel undertaken in 2008 was the perfect time to also replace the front lawn with a drought-resistant garden. Since completing it in March 2009, the couple has seen their water usage fall by nearly half at the home they have owned for 15 years.

Mittman started by consulting a landscape professional on what drought-tolerant plants to get, and to design and install an irrigation system for shady, medium-sun and sunny areas. Using a hydrometer to regularly gauge soil moisture, Mittman said she has to water just once a month in summer and not at all during rainy months.

A big part of her garden's success, she said, was the result of extensive soil-prep work – removing five pickup loads of "Clairemont clay" to the dump and replacing it with compost and soil amendment, including peat moss, sand, coarse perlite or gypsum.

Among the more than three dozen succulents, cacti, shrubs and trees in Mittman's garden are several that bloom nearly year-round for continuous color, including the "Crown of Thorns" (*euphorbia millii*) and the ever-hardy and ubiquitous "Sea Lavender" statice (*limonium perezii*).

For the relatively few flowering annuals requiring more water, Mittman said, she draws from barrels in which rain water, or rinse water from the washing machine, is collected.

Mittman said she familiarized herself with drought-tolerant plants, trees and shrubs by attending the landscaping open house held each spring at Cuyamaca College's drought-tolerant garden. "I would highly recommend that to anyone not familiar with these plants," she said. "There are all kinds of experts there with tons of good information."

Though the open house is held just once a year, the Water Conservation Garden at Cuyamaca College is open daily from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is free. The college is located at 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive in El Cajon. Visit the garden's Web site, [www.thegarden.org](http://www.thegarden.org), or call (619) 660-6614 for more information.



**Susan Mittman and her award-winning garden.**



## Community recognition

Scott Wentworth, pictured at left with Donna, was this year's honoree at the 21st Annual Clairemont Family Day. Scott has been actively involved in the betterment of the community since he moved to Clairemont 30 years ago. Donna presented him with a City Council commendation proclaiming August 7, 2010, to be "Scott Wentworth Day" in the City of San Diego. The annual event at the South Clairemont Recreation Center had stage performances, children's rides and fun for residents of all ages.

Join **Move San Diego**  
for a **San Diego**  
**Transportation Town Hall**

**4-7 p.m. August 19,**  
**San Diego State University**  
**Aztec Center,**  
**5500 Campanile Drive**

For registration and  
additional information, visit  
<http://movesandiego.eventbrite.com/>  
or call **(619) 702-4266**





## Pristine nature abounds at Mission Valley Preserve

One of San Diego's greatest hidden treasures is the Mission Valley Preserve, a 51-acre nature park in western Mission Valley. "It really is, in my eyes, the premier park of all," said Ben Stevenson, president of Friends of Mission Valley Preserve. "It's the most beautiful I've seen, the most pristine, the most isolated."

With a main entrance off the parking lot of the Mission Valley YMCA, 5505 Friars Road, the preserve is a sanctuary of serenity. Bisected by the San Diego River, it provides habitat for the endangered least Bell's vireo and a wide variety of other birds. It has miles of dirt trails, several of which wind down to and along the river banks. A main trail near the entrance loops half a mile through three acres of riparian foliage, including cottonwood, sycamore and black willow trees.

Along the river's south bank, a paved bike path completed in June 2009 connects Sefton Park on the preserve's eastern end to the Ocean Beach estuary on the west.

The Friends of Mission Valley Preserve includes scores of volunteers who pitch in and help with periodic trash cleanups, removal of invasive plants and replanting of native vegetation.

Stevenson, who took the group's helm last November, says homeless encampments along the river pose particularly vexing challenges. Occupants of these camps often show little respect for the fragile ecosystem, littering it with trash and biological waste and sometimes starting fires. The Friends group and San Diego River Park Foundation are working with city park rangers, police and fire officials to address this longstanding and difficult-to-manage problem.

Friends of Mission Valley Preserve is also working with permitting agencies to improve the north-bank trails to enhance the preserve's attractiveness and safety. Visitors rarely encounter any problems on well-marked trails, Stevenson said.

To him, being at the preserve is like going back in time. "It's a city parcel that looks like it would have 100 or 200 years ago," he said. "The riparian habitat, it's overwhelming; it's amazing. You can get lost down there, in a good way."

For more information about the preserve or to volunteer as a friend, contact Stevenson at (858) 232-9192 or [ben@firebreaksolutions.com](mailto:ben@firebreaksolutions.com).



Some trails wind to the water's edge.

## *Doo-wah-diddy-diddy-Donna*



Donna was delighted to meet members of the enduring oldies group Sha Na Na during a July 29 appearance at the KUSI-TV studio. The group, which gained widespread fame in 1969 by preceding Jimi Hendrix at the legendary Woodstock music festival, still delights audiences with their reprisals of 1950s doo-wap hits.

### *Council OKs access upgrades at Rec Center*

On July 27 the City Council approved funding to renovate the kitchen at the South Clairemont Recreation Center. The \$99,000 project is needed to bring the kitchen into compliance with federal and state standards for people with disabilities.

This project will remove all accessible barriers and bring the kitchen into full compliance with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

The work includes replacement of the kitchen's cabinets, sink and plumbing, electrical components, countertops. A passageway connection to the multi-purpose room, will be created, and the kitchen also will be repainted.

The project has been on the City's Unfunded Park Improvement list for many years. It will have no fiscal impact on the maintenance and operations of the recreation center, with funding from federal grants.



## Grateful honor for local hero

Family and friends of Serra Mesa's Randy Mitchell, center, joined Councilmember Frye in celebrating his proud recognition after the City Council issued a commendation proclaiming July 13, 2010, as "Randy Mitchell Day" in the City of San Diego. The Mesa College student rescued his elderly, hearing-impaired neighbor, Virginia Turner, from a fire in May that destroyed Turner's home and garage.



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

Saturday, August 21  
9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

## Friends of the Library Book Sale

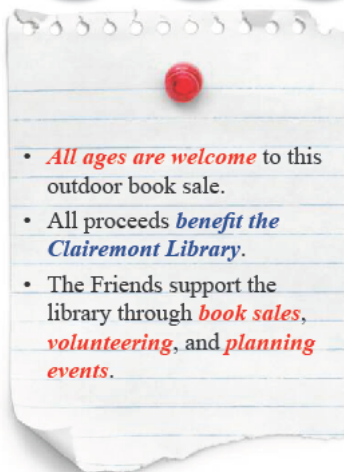


at the **Clairemont  
Public Library**



Clairemont Public Library  
2920 Burgener Blvd.  
San Diego, CA 92110  
(619) 581-9935

This information will be made available in alternative formats upon request.



**Free!**

## More to learn & do at library

**Employment workshop,  
2-4 p.m. Monday, Aug. 16:**  
Explore career options and  
learn about networking, where  
to find jobs and how to apply.



**Raw foods cooking,  
4-6 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 24:**  
Chef Mindy Goldis of World  
Peace Kitchen shares 15 years  
of experience in selecting and  
preparing nutritious and  
delicious natural foods.







## Important Phone Numbers

Abandoned Vehicles	858-495-7856
Animal Regulation	619-236-4250
Beach & Bay Advisory	619-338-2073
Birth and Death Records	619-237-0502
Brush/Weed Abatement	619-533-4444
Building Permits	619-446-5000
Buses/MTS Access	619-233-3004
Canyon Watchers Program	858-292-6484
City Council Docket Info	619-533-4000
City Directory	619-236-5555
<b>Code Violations</b>	<b>619-236-5500</b>
<b>Crime Stoppers</b>	<b>888-580-8477</b>
Curb Maintenance	619-527-7500
Dead Animal Removal	858-694-7000
Dog Licenses	619-767-2675
Fire Stations	619-533-4300
<b>Graffiti</b>	<b>619-525-8522</b>
<b>Hazardous Materials Hotline</b>	<b>858-694-7000</b>
Housing Commission	619-231-9400
Humane Society	619-299-7012
Libraries	
Balboa	858-573-1390
Clairemont	858-581-9935
Linda Vista	858-573-1399
Mission Valley	858-573-5000
North Clairemont	858-581-9931
Serra Mesa	858-573-1396
Noise Regulation	619-236-5500
Office of Small Business	619-685-1390
Park and Recreation	619-525-8219
Parking Citations	619-236-7145
Parking Enforcement	858-495-4747
<b>Police: Non-Emergency</b>	<b>619-531-2000</b>
<b>Pot Hole Hotline</b>	<b>619-527-7500</b>
Recreation Centers	
Kearny Mesa	858-573-1387
Linda Vista	858-573-1392
North Clairemont	858-581-9926
Serra Mesa	858-573-1408
South Clairemont	858-581-9924
Tecolote	858-581-9933
Recycling Hotline	858-694-7000
Senior Citizens Services	619-236-6905
Serra Mesa Community Connection	858-565-2473
Sewer Repair/Spills	619-515-3525
<b>Sidewalk Maintenance</b>	<b>619-527-7500</b>
<b>Social Services Information</b>	<b>211</b>
<b>Stormwater Pollution Hotline</b>	<b>619-235-1000</b>
Street Lights	619-527-7500
Street Sweeping	619-527-7500
Traffic Control	619-533-3126
<b>Tree Maintenance</b>	<b>619-527-7500</b>
Waste Reduction & Disposal	858-492-5010
<b>Water Emergency</b>	<b>619-515-3525</b>
<b>Water Utilities</b>	<b>619-515-3500</b>
Zoning Regulation Information	619-236-5555

## District Six Community Meetings

### **Clairemont Town Council**, <http://www.clairemontonline.com>

Place: Clairemont High School Cafeteria  
4150 Ute Drive  
When: 1st Thursday/Month  
Time: 7 p.m.

### **Clairemont Mesa Planning Committee**

Place: LiveWell San Diego (formerly Clairemont Senior Friendship Center)  
4425 Bannock Ave.  
When: 3rd Tuesday/Month  
Time: 6:30 p.m.

### **Kearny Mesa Planning Group**

Place: Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library  
9005 Aero Drive  
When: 3rd Wednesday/Month  
Time: Noon

### **Linda Vista Town Council**

Place: Baha'i Center  
6545 Alcala Knolls Drive  
When: 3rd Thursday/Month  
Time: 6:30 p.m.

### **Linda Vista Planning Group**

Place: Linda Recreation Center  
7064 Levant Street  
When: 4th Monday/Month  
Time: 5:30 p.m.

### **Mission Bay Park Committee**

Place: Rotating Venue  
When: 1st Tuesday/Month  
Time: 6 p.m.

### **Mission Valley Community Council**

Place: Mission Valley Library  
2123 Fenton Parkway  
When: 3rd Tuesday/Odd Months  
Time: 6:30 p.m.

### **Mission Valley Planning Group**

Place: Mission Valley Library  
2123 Fenton Parkway  
When: 1st Wednesday/Month  
Time: Noon

### **Serra Mesa Community Council**, [www.serramesa.org](http://www.serramesa.org)

Place: Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library  
9005 Aero Drive  
When: 4th Wednesday/Month  
Time: 6:30 p.m.

### **Serra Mesa Planning Group**

Place: Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library  
9005 Aero Drive  
When: 3rd Thursday/Month  
Time: 7 p.m.



Councilmember Donna Frye  
City Administration Building  
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San Diego, CA 92101

FRYE LIGHTS: CELEBRATING THE DISTRICT SIX SPIRIT



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Register to receive updates & event information from Councilmember Frye  
by signing up in the "Frye Lights" box at [www.sandiego.gov/cd61](http://www.sandiego.gov/cd61)